REMARKS

Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein to recite that the hydrophilic layer is formed on the aluminum support "by at least an anodizing treatment and a sealing treatment with fine particles". Claims 5 and 6 are canceled and claims 7 and 8 are amended to change their dependencies. Support for the Amendment is found, for example, on page 57, line 17 to page 59, line 22, and in the Examples of the specification. No new matter is presented.

Accordingly, upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-4 and 7-8 will be all of the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-8 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,716,567.

Claims 5 and 6 are canceled herein thereby obviating the rejection as to these claims.

With respect to claims 1-4 and 7-8, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein to recite that the hydrophilic layer is formed on the aluminum support by at least an anodizing treatment and a sealing treatment with fine particles.

On the other hand, US '567 does not teach or suggest anything about a sealing treatment with fine particles in the claims or the description. In addition, US '567 does not claim or describe anything regarding the thermal conductivity of the hydrophilic layer recited in claim 1 or the density or porosity of the hydrophilic layer recited in claim 2.

Although US '567 mentions general conditions of an anodizing treatment, it discloses that the average pore density is 0 to 400 pieces /μm^2 and it is more preferable that the anodizing layer is not provided with micropores. See column 9, lines 47-58 of US '567.

Accordingly, while the present invention aims to lower thermal conductivity, to lower density and to raise porosity of the hydrophilic layer by increasing the density or size of micropores in the anodized layer formed by an anodizing treatment and a sealing treatment with fine particles, US '567 does not describe anything about a sealing treatment with fine particles in the claims or the specification. Further, US '567 teaches that it is preferable to lower the density of micropores. In this respect, US '567 teaches away from the presently claimed invention. Thus, the presently claimed invention is not taught or suggested by the claims or the description of US '567.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

II. Response to Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by WO '544 (translation as shown in US '567) [1].

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 are amended herein to recite that the hydrophilic layer is formed on the aluminum support by at least an anodizing treatment and a sealing treatment with fine particles.

WO '544 (US '567) does not disclose, teach or suggest anything about a sealing treatment with fine particles as in the presently claimed invention. In addition, WO '544

[1] It appears that the Examiner intended to reject more that just claim 1, particularly since she rejected all the present claims as obvious over the claims of the '567 patent (in the double patenting rejection).

(US '567) does not disclose teach or suggest the thermal conductivity of the hydrophilic layer recited in claim 1 or the density or porosity of the hydrophilic layer recited in claim 2.

Although WO '544 (US '567) mentions general conditions of an anodizing treatment, it discloses that the average pore density is 0 to 400 pieces /μm^2 and it is more preferable that the anodizing layer is not provided with micropores. See column 9, lines 47-58 of US '567. Accordingly, the present invention aims to lower thermal conductivity, to lower density and to raise porosity of the hydrophilic layer by increasing the density or size of micropores in the anodized layer formed by an anodizing treatment and a sealing treatment with fine particles, while WO '544 (US '567) does not disclose, teach or suggest a sealing treatment with fine particles. Further, WO '544 teaches that it is preferable to lower the density of micropores contrary to the presently claimed invention. Hence, the present invention is not anticipated by WO '544 (US '567).

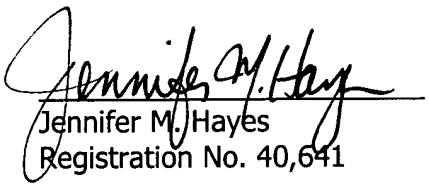
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the anticipation rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer M. Hayes
Registration No. 40,641

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 30, 2005